

## Chapter II

# Mississippi Demographic Profile

## II. Mississippi Demographic Profile

This section provides descriptive and statistical information on the demographic characteristics of Mississippi according to the 2000 Census and 2002 population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

### Population

According to the 2000 Census, Mississippi had 2,844,658 people dispersed in 82 counties and 297 incorporated cities, towns, and villages. While 75 percent of the people live in one of the incorporated municipalities, 53 percent live in areas classified as rural by the Census Bureau. Less than 20 percent of the people live in a city with a population of 25,000 or more, and only one-third in a city of 10,000 or more. The state has three standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSAs) completely within its borders: the Gulf Coast (Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson counties); Jackson area (Hinds, Madison, and Rankin counties), and the Hattiesburg area (Forrest and Lamar counties). The Southaven-DeSoto area is in the Memphis SMSA.

According to the 2002 census estimate, the gender composition was 48.4 percent male and 51.6 percent female. The racial composition was 61.4 percent white, 36.8 percent black, and 1.8 percent other races. Persons aged 65 or older made up 12.1 percent of the population. These data are reflected in the following table.

2002 Census Estimate: 2,871,782					
Whites	1,762,785	Blacks	1,057,123	Other	51,874
Males	866,984	Males	496,907	Male	24,988
Females	895,801	Females	560,219	Females	26,886
Estimated Population Over Age 65: 346,251					
Whites	256,867	Blacks	86,357	Other	3,027
Males	104,683	Males	33,327	Male	1,238
Females	152,184	Females	56,057	Female	1,789

### Housing

The 2000 Census reported 1,161,953 housing units in Mississippi and an average occupancy of 2.45 persons per unit. By contrast, in 1990 there were 1,010,423 housing units, with an average occupancy of 2.55 persons. The average household size in 2000 was 2.63 persons; the average family size 3.14. Although there has been marked improvement in income, education, and housing, Mississippi remains well below the national average in these areas.

Table II-1  
**Mississippi Non-Agricultural Employment and Job Openings  
by Employment Sector**  
1998 to 2008

Employment Sector	Employment		Change 1998-2008		Average Annual Job Openings 1998-2008		
	Estimated 1998	Projected 2008	Absolute	Percent	Growth Openings	Separation Openings	Total
Self-employed and Unpaid Family Workers	66,320	63,460	(2,860)	(4.3)	0	1,235	1,235
Private Households	2,890	4,010	1,120	38.8	110	35	145
Mining	6,070	3,900	(2,170)	(35.7)	0	135	135
Construction	53,110	63,310	10,200	19.2	1,020	1,335	2,355
Manufacturing	205,770	213,680	7,910	3.8	800	4,525	5,325
Transportation, Communications and Utilities	53,350	61,190	7,840	14.7	785	1,135	1,920
Wholesale Trade	47,040	55,090	8,050	17.1	810	1,040	1,850
Retail Trade	196,990	222,460	25,470	12.9	2,555	6,465	9,020
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	39,650	40,930	1,280	3.2	125	900	1,025
Services <sup>1</sup>	444,700	512,140	67,440	15.2	6,760	9,600	16,360
Government	122,330	125,230	2,900	2.4	285	2,750	3,035
<b>Total Non-Agriculture<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>1,227,660</b>	<b>1,363,270</b>	<b>135,610</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>13,575</b>	<b>29,090</b>	<b>42,665</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes Local and State Government, Education, and Hospital Employment.

<sup>2</sup>Totals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Mississippi Statewide and Selected Sub-State Areas Employment and Job Openings, 1998-2008, August 2000.

## Employment

Employment increased from 1,204,300 in 2002 to 1,229,000 (annual average), a 2.1 percent increase, according to the Mississippi Employment Security Commission's Report of Annual Averages. This figure includes all Mississippi residents who are employed, whether the employment is within Mississippi or out-of-state. The average civilian labor force, which includes all residents of the state who are working or seeking employment, was 1,312,100 in 2003. An average of 83,100 Mississippi residents were seeking employment during the year, for an average unemployment rate of 6.3. The 2003 rate was down from 2002's average rate of 6.8.

During 2004, Mississippi's unemployment rate by month decreased from 6.2 in January, to 5.6 in February, to 4.6 in March and April, with April's rate 1.7 percentage points lower than April 2003. Thirty counties bettered the statewide rate of 4.6 percent for the month, while eight counties recorded double-digit unemployment rates, a decrease from 19 in April 2003. The national unemployment rate for April was 5.4 percent.

## Income

Mississippi ranked 49<sup>th</sup> among the states in per capita income and 48<sup>th</sup> in median family income, according to the 2000 Census. In 1999, the per capita income was \$16,257, while the national average was \$21,690. The median family income was \$39,266, more than \$10,000 less than the \$49,507 for the United States. Table II-2 shows additional information on poverty for individuals and families.

## Education

According to the 2000 Census, high school graduation rates in Mississippi rose to 74.3 percent in 2000, from 64.3 percent in 1990, a gain of ten points, although the state is below the national rate of 81.6 percent. Approximately 18.6 percent of Mississippians over 25 years of age hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 25.1 percent for the United States.

**Table II-2**  
**Persons and Families by Poverty Status**  
**Mississippi and United States**  
**1999, 1989, and 1979**

Area	Number of Families Below Poverty Level (in thousands)			Percent Below Poverty Level					
				Persons			Families		
	1999	1989	1979	1999	1989	1979	1999	1989	1979
United States	6,828	6,488	5,646	12.5	13.1	12.5	9.6	10.0	9.6
Mississippi	104	137	120	18.2	25.2	23.9	14.3	20.2	18.7

Source: Population Census, Bureau of the Census